import of gold and silver under the Export and Import Policy 1992-97; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the norms ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Under the Export & Import Policy 1992–97, gold and silver in any form are covered by the Negative List of Imports. Import is permitted under the Duty Exemption Scheme and the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Schemes as laid down in Chapter VII and VIII respectively of the Exim Policy. Import of gold is also permitted by specified categories of exporters against special import licences. In addition, import of silver and spinnerettes mainly made of gold is also regulated in terms of provisions contained in Ministry of Commerce Notification No. 106(N-30)/92-97 and Public Notice No. 107(PN)/92–97 both dated 1st March, 1993 copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

Recruitment to Indian Trade Service

3845. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that future recruitment to Indian Trade Service has been stopped;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the posts in the DGFT's Organisation continued to be filled up by deputationists;

(d) whether Indian Trade Service Officers were considered for the post of Export Commissioner, if not, the reasons therefor and reasons for considering candidates only from one service; and

(e) whether it is a fact that officers of CSS were appointed as Export Commissioner in the past as per Recruitment Rules now in force ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) It has been decided to stop recruitment to Indian Trade Service through Civil Service Examination till 1994 (inclusive of 1994 Examination) keeping in view the changed role of the DGFT Organisation and is proposed restructuring.

(c) and (d) Posts in the DGFT are to be filled in accordance with the relevant Recruitment Rules. The post of Export Commissioner, is also to be filled under the Central Staffing Scheme, in accordance with the prescribed Recruitment Rules. At present Officers, of ITS do not meet the criterion stipulated therein.

(e) Yes, Sir, CSS Officers were appointed to the post of Export Commissioner as per Rules in force at the relevant time.

Pay Commission's Recommendations for its Officers

3846. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2618 given in the Rajya Sabha on 17th December, 1992 and state the action taken by Government to post the ITS Officers as the heads of the four Regional Offices at Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras, as per the Fourth Pay Commission's recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : Attention is invited to the answer given to the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2618 replied on 17th December, 1991. These posts are being filled according to the Recruitment Rules in force.

Differences with USA on Intellectual Property Rights

3847. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there are deep differences with USA on issues like intellectual property rights, pharmaceutical chemicals and food;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what are the details of steps taken to reduce such differences on these issues;

(d) whether the Indo-US Joint Business Council, made any recommendation in this regard which could be acceptable to Government of India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (e) In respect of patents in the areas of food, pharmaceuticals and chemicals, India and US have differences on issues such as scope of patentability, duration of patents, pipeline protection for products covered by existing patents in the U.S., and compulsory licensing. These issues are being negotiated in the Uruguay Round as a part of the Agreement on Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs).

The Indo-US Joint Business Council has not made any specific recommendations on these issues, but has suggested that concerted efforts should be made to resolve them taking into account the concerns and aspirations of both sides.

Direction of Trade to Guide Exporters

3848. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any direction of trade envisaged by Government to guide the prospective exporters;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any programme for conducting International Marketing Survey by professionals in the target markets;

(d) if so, whether Government have approached professional staff for carrying out such programmes;

(e) whether Government are aware that the Trade Directories containing names and addresses of foreign importers are not accurate since they contain names of non-existing firms; and

(f) if so, what steps Government have taken to print out Trade Directories with duly verified addresses by the professional staff of the Embassies ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) A weekly publication entitled 'Indian Trade Journal' (ITJ) is publised by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta to guide the prospective exporters.

(b) The ITJ contains the trade prospects of different commodities in individual countries, alongwith the market size for the commodity in each country, India's share of that market and other related information based on monthly reports from Indian Embassies.

(c) and (d) Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, India Trade Promotion Organisation and other such agencies conduct market surveys as and when the necessity is felt.

(e) and (f) DGCI&S, Calcutta publishes a Directory of Indian Exporters which is updated periodically. Due care is taken to verify the accuracy of these particulars. The names and addresses of foreign importers are not published but a list is maintained by DGCI&S and information is provided by them on request. These particulars are also updated periodically.

Export of Sea Food Items

3849. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER :

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR YADAV "RAVI" :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the net share of export of sea-food in the country's exports during the year 1992-93 stating the target set for the year 1993-94; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to further increase the export of sea-food items in 1993-94 ?

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